
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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U.S. TRADE IN BAUXITE AND ALUMINA IN THE SECOND QUARTER 1997

Domestic mines have for many years supplied substantially less than 1% of the U.S. requirement for bauxite. Essentially all of the domestic bauxite production is used in nonmetallurgical products, such as abrasives, chemicals, proppants, and refractories. Thus, the United States imports almost all of the bauxite, especially the metallurgical-grade bauxite, that it requires.

Because the number of domestic mines is small, U.S. bauxite

production figures can not be published, as they would reveal company proprietary information. As this situation is unlikely to change, the U.S. Geological Survey has discontinued the collection of production data. Henceforth, this Mineral Industry Surveys will deal only with U.S. trade in bauxite and alumina; the title has been changed to reflect the change in content.

U.S. trade data currently available through May allow the following comparisons:

	Jan.-May. 1997*	Percentage change from Jan.-May 1996	Principal Source/Destination
<u>Crude & Dried Bauxite:</u>			
Imports	4,240	+4%	Guinea (39%), Jamaica (38%), Brazil (16%)
Exports	24	-44%	Canada (91%)
<u>Calcined Bauxite:</u>			
Imports	146	-20%	China (46%), Guyana (30%), Australia (10%)
Exports	13	-21%	Japan (57%), Canada (28%), Mexico (10%)
<u>Alumina:</u>			
Imports	1,500	-13%	Australia (76%), Jamaican (6%), Suriname (6%)
Exports	599	+49%	Canada (70%), Mexico (10%), Russia (6%)

* Thousand metric tons

TABLE 1
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS OF
CRUDE AND DRIED BAUXITE 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	1996	1997		
		First quarter	Apr.-May	Year to date 2/
Imports: 3/				
Brazil	2,080,000	414,000	267,000	680,000
Guinea	3,420,000	949,000	722,000	1,670,000
Guyana	693,000	107,000	123,000	229,000
Jamaica 4/	3,920,000	964,000	640,000	1,600,000
Other	120,000	57,500	126	57,600
Total	10,200,000	2,490,000	1,750,000	4,240,000
Exports:				
Canada	70,200	12,200	9,870	22,000
Mexico	513	156	6	162
Other	21,800	128	2,020	2,150
Total	92,500	12,500	11,900	24,400

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Data may change because of revisions.

3/ Includes bauxite imported into the U.S. Virgin Islands. Excludes calcined bauxite.

4/ Dry equivalent of shipments to the United States.

Source: Bureau of the Census, data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CALCINED BAUXITE, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	1996		1997					
			First quarter		Apr.-May		Year to date 2/	
	Refrac-tory	Other	Refrac-tory	Other	Refrac-tory	Other	Refrac-tory	Other
Imports:								
Brazil	6,220	6,240	100	5,250	--	5,790	100	11,000
China	119,000	118,000	24,000	7,510	17,600	17,800	41,700	25,300
Guyana	59,000	25,800	19,200	--	23,900	--	43,100	--
Other	16,900	1,060	3,890	7,660	5,860	7,500	9,750	15,200
Total	201,000	151,000	47,300	20,400	47,400	31,100	94,700	51,500
Exports:								
Canada	251	8,340	32	2,410	60	1,170	92	3,590
Japan	22,200	--	7,530	--	--	--	7,530	--
Mexico	2,960	1,020	429	374	519	19	948	393
Other	3,370	1,440	181	133	6	305	187	438
Total	28,800	10,800	8,170	2,920	585	1,500	8,760	4,420

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Data may change because of revisions.

Source: Bureau of the Census, data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

TABLE 3
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS OF ALUMINA 1/

(Metric tons, calcined equivalent)

Country	1996	1997		
		First quarter	Apr.- May	Year to date
Imports: 2/				
Australia	3,120,000	640,000	494,000	1,130,000
Canada	102,000	26,200	18,000	44,200
India	68,000	7,020	--	7,020
Jamaica	351,000	61,700	33,300	94,900
Suriname	379,000	40,700	51,200	91,900
Trinidad	147,000	16,400	37,100	53,500
Other	160,000	32,600	40,700	73,400
Total	4,320,000	825,000	674,000	1,500,000
Exports: 3/				
Brazil	1,790	228	281	509
Canada	712,000 r/	244,000	177,000	421,000
Mexico	43,600	32,000	27,800	59,900
Russia	74,900	33,000	--	33,000
Other	85,500	44,600	40,200	84,700
Total	918,000	354,000	245,000	599,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes imports of aluminum hydroxide: 92,600 metric tons in 1996; 36,400 tons in first quarter; 22,200 tons in April and May of 1997.

3/ Includes exports of alumina from the U.S. Virgin Islands to foreign countries. Includes exports of aluminum hydroxide: 43,900 metric tons in 1996; 12,200 tons in the first quarter; 8,140 tons in April and May of 1997.

Source: Bureau of the Census, data adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Fig. 1 - U.S. Trade in Crude and Dried Bauxite

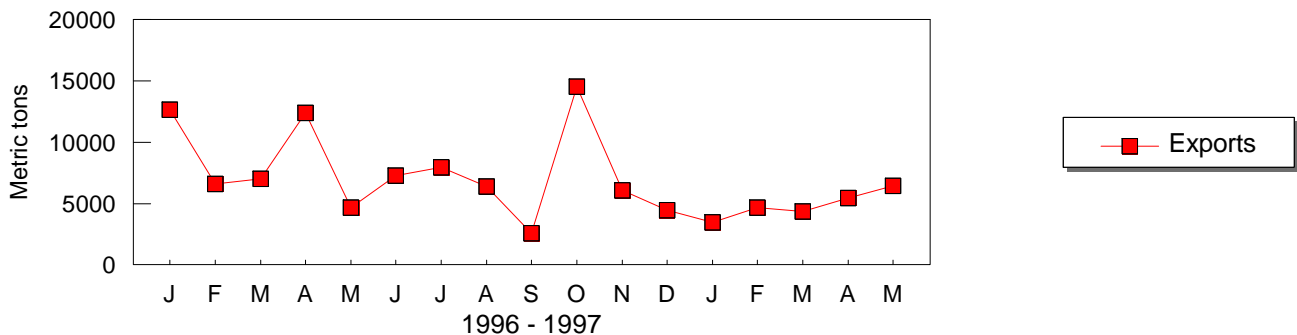
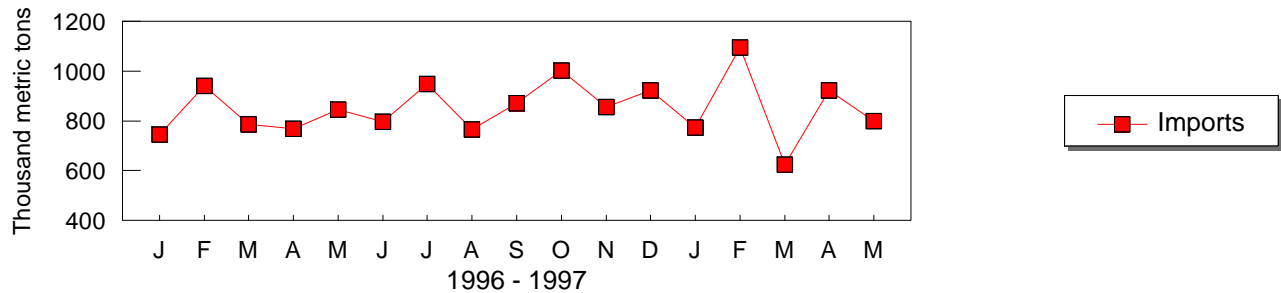


Fig. 2 - U.S. Trade in Calcined Bauxite

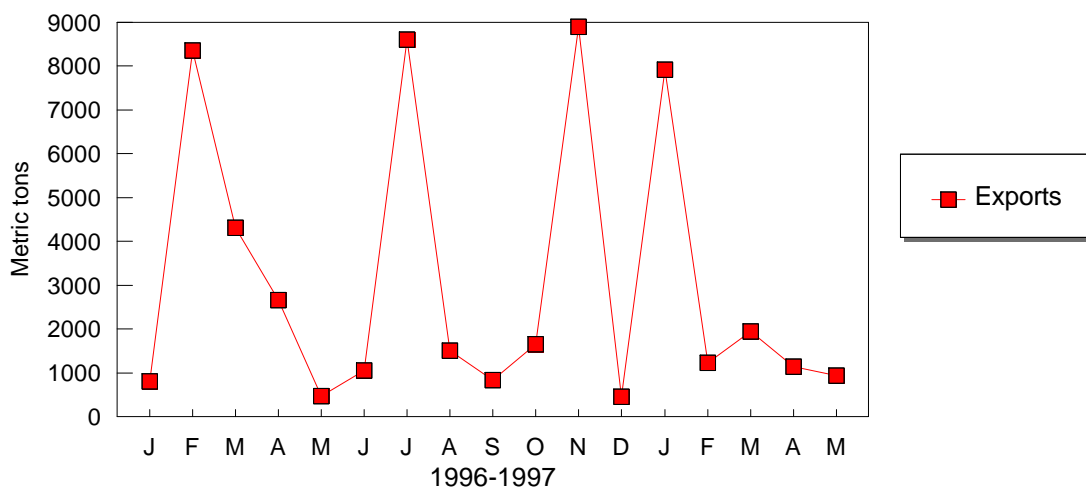
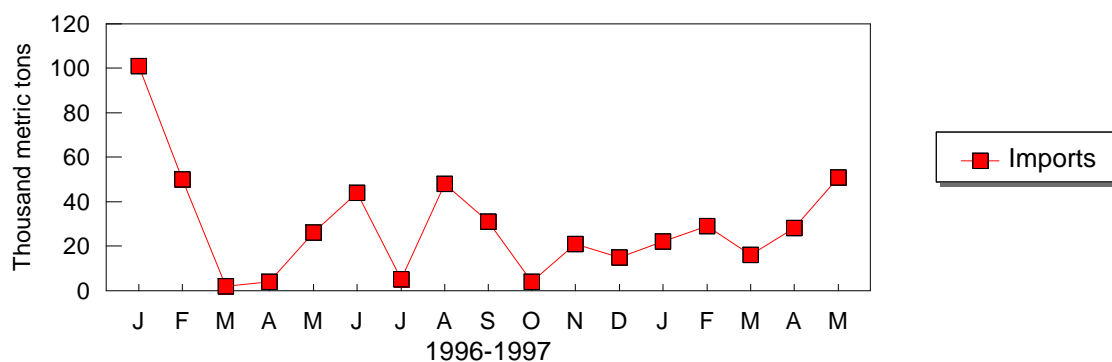


Fig. 3 - U.S. Trade in Alumina

